

CLAIMS

In the Claims:

1. An aircraft window for mounting in an aircraft cabin, the aircraft window comprising:
 - a substantially transparent lens, having a lens opening, the lens opening having a width and a height;
 - support member for supporting the lens;
 - a shade, the shade comprising of flexible sheet or film having a first end and a second end and a body there between, the shade comprising of three sections, a first section adjacent the first end and substantially transparent, and a second section adjacent the second end and substantially opaque and a third section, between the first and second sections, the third section having an optical gradient varying from near transparency adjacent the first end to near opacity adjacent the second end, the sheet having a length and a width, the width of the sheet sufficient to cover the width of the lens opening;
 - at least one pair of rollers, one of the rollers attached to the first end of the sheet and the second of the pair of rollers attached to the second end of the sheet;
 - bracket to mount the rollers to the support member; and
 - drive device for moving the shade between a first position where the first section covers the lens opening and a second position wherein the second section covers the lens opening.
2. The aircraft window of claim 1 wherein the shade comprises one or a combination of the following materials:
 - G.E. Lexan[®], photographic film, Mylar[®] or acetate.

3. The aircraft window of claim 1 wherein the support member is curved in cross sectional view.
4. The aircraft window of claim 1 further including a second pair of rollers and a second shade.
5. The aircraft window of claim 1 wherein the drive device includes a lead screw and a handle.
6. The aircraft window of claim 1 wherein the drive device includes an electric motor.
7. The aircraft window of claim 1 further including a second transparent lens, the second transparent lens for engagement with the support member such that the shade, the at least one pair of rollers and the drive device are located between the transparent lens and the second transparent lens.